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MEMO TO PRES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Rec'd in S/S May 18, 1970

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May 18, 1970

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: EA - Marshall Green *MG*

SUBJECT: Chinese Cancellation of May 20 Warsaw Meeting -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

The manner in which the Chinese Communists have handled their cancellation of the Sino-U.S. Ambassadorial meeting scheduled for May 20 in Warsaw has led Embassy Warsaw to conclude that the move should be seen as a tactical psychological warfare move rather than an abrupt change in PRC policy regarding its dialogue with the United States.

We agree with this conclusion. The relatively moderate tone in which the Chinese set forth their reason for cancelling the meeting and the fact that they state their interest in continuing the Warsaw dialogue with the U.S. are significant characteristics of their action today. The restraint with which the Chinese have approached this cancellation is underlined by comparison with their handling of the cancellation of the meeting that had been scheduled for February 20, 1969. In last year's case, the Chinese notified us by letter that (a) said nothing about arrangements for another meeting, (b) attacked the U.S., particularly its role in the defection of the PRC Charge in the Netherlands, in very strong terms, and (c) followed this by an extensive public blast at the U.S., issued formally by the PRC Foreign Ministry.

In today's actions, the Chinese (a) clearly implied a continuing interest in the Warsaw dialogue; (b) attacked the U.S. actions in Indochina in milder terms than circumstances

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might have permitted, and (c) issued their public statement more routinely as an announcement by the New China News Agency rather than by the Foreign Ministry.

At the same time, Peking's cancellation of this week's meeting, while placing the blame on U.S. actions in Indochina, serves to meet the needs of its relations with Moscow and Hanoi by pointedly avoiding talking with the U.S. at this stage. Furthermore, it avoids meeting with the U.S. shortly after the Djakarta conference, which Peking has strongly castigated. By this cancellation, Peking might also be seeking to warn the U.S. that our actions in Indochina will have a negative impact on our developing Warsaw dialogue and on prospects for an early meeting in Peking. We assume that Peking welcomes this additional opportunity of subjecting the Administration to further domestic U.S. criticism flowing from entry into Cambodia.

June 20 Meeting

We are instructing Embassy Warsaw to reply to the Chinese proposal that a further meeting be discussed on June 20 by confirming that we are prepared to receive the Chinese suggestion on that date and give it consideration.

Additional Department Comment on Cancellation

At today's noon briefing, McCloskey revealed, prior to Peking's public announcement, that the Chinese had cancelled the May 20 meeting. He stated, on background, that it could be assumed that the cancellation was related to events in Indochina. In answer to a direct question, he said also that the Department would have further comment following any public Chinese announcement. Since we now have such an announcement, we will be preparing guidance for McCloskey's use on Tuesday.

Clearance:

EA - Ambassador Brown *W*

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